

CORRESPONDENCE FROM JAPAN AND CHINA.

TOKYO, JAPAN, *April 23, 1914.*

Dear Dr. Pilsbry: I have intended writing you any time during the past fortnight—but these are busy times and little gets done except what is absolutely necessary. I thought you would be interested in an account of a call I made on Mr. Hirase at his Conchological Museum—

We landed at Nagasaki, ran down to Kagoshima where we inspected the still active volcano of Sakurajima, which erupted so alarmingly in January—We were on the Transport Logan and received wireless reports that thousands were killed. Actually the death toll is said to have been eighteen, for the disturbance began twenty-four hours before reaching its full height and the three or four thousand people living on the island escaped to the mainland.

The scenery on the run down to Kagoshima is really fine—one long gorge surpassing the Rhine in beauty, though not having the historical and legendary associations of that river.

We came back *via* the Inland Sea, stopping at Miyajima, one of the three brag beauty-spots of Japan. I had a fine afternoon on the beaches—getting a lot of stuff that was new to me, and some old friends.

At Kyoto I sent a note to Mr. Hirase, asking if I might call that afternoon, and received a cordial note in return. Mr. Hirase is a dignified Japanese gentleman, nearly of my own age I should judge, full-bearded and fine-looking. After half an hour spent in tea drinking and conversation, Mr. Hirase and his assistant spent a couple of hours in showing me over the collection. They have about ten thousand species and varieties of Mollusks—three thousand Japanese and seven thousand foreign. The collection is beautifully mounted, each specimen or species with Latin names and additional notes and names in Japanese. Being Japanese, the arrangement is artistic, as all things are in this country, and it is a delight to go over it. There has been no economizing of space at the expense of fine appearance, so there is room for few foreign shells besides the Japanese. Mr.

Hirase informs me that several times a year all foreign shells are changed in their cases, so that all of these shells are gone over completely each year, each set being exhibited several weeks.

I scarcely had time to make any specific notes but recall a few striking things. At one place they have various sets of land shells arranged in series to include several recognized species in such a manner as to leave almost no breaks perceptibly demarking specific limits, after a manner with which Mr. Hemp-hill has made us familiar at home with his *Helix strigosa* group. At another point a case is given up to an exhibition of freaks, each mounted with a perfect specimen of the same species. Among them is a large *Haliotis gigantea* with two full series of holes. Some of the others are even more striking. Among rarities is a splendid series of *Pleurotomarias*.

Last week I ran down for a couple of days to Misaki to visit the Biological Station connected with the Imperial University. There I met Dr. C. Ishikawa who was down with a class of advanced students for the University vacation and Mr. S. Fujita who has charge regularly. Mr. Fujita has done some work on mollusks but his most important work is the artificial production of marketable pearls—a process which he has but recently perfected. After our return from the Kyoto-Obama trip I hope to run down again and do some careful collecting. A single day on the beaches verified Mr. Fujita's statement that the fauna is very rich.

We are having a truly delightful visit in Japan; though I never was so helpless,—the language, with no connection to any other that I am familiar with, and offering an entirely new set of roots and word forms, is unbelievably difficult, and I have gotten no hold on it whatever.

ON BOARD S. S. AMPING MARU.

October 29, 1914.

It is some time since I reported, so here goes. We are on our way to Formosa but have a two-day stop off Foochow, China before making the last 24-hour run. Have had a very rapid run through Korea and China, most interesting every-

where, but not very productive of shells. We spent about a week in Korea—half in Seoul and three days in a trip to visit Dr. Borrow, an English lady-physician who is doing a marvelous lot of surgical work in a very primitive hospital in an out-of-the-way place, twenty-six miles from the R. R. On this trip I picked up about two hundred Melanias in a little stream we followed for a mile or two; I also got about thirty species of flowers, although the season is late.

Korea is almost absolutely free of timber, a tradition stating that early Koreans cut it all out to make the country appear barren and to prevent invasion by envious neighbors. It is closely cultivated however wherever it is level enough and the yield is generally good.

The most striking thing to the tourist is the costuming of men and women and the hair dressing of the men. All married men wear the hair in a closely tied topknot projecting about four inches from the vertex. The unmarried men and boys part their hair in the middle and braid it into a long pig-tail. So that we took them all for girls till we learned that no girl or woman is seen without a skirt.

From Seoul we ran through Manchuria to Peking, where we spent a week, doing the ordinary stunts including a two-days run out to Nankow to see the great Wall and the Ming tombs. Then we ran to Hankow by rail where we took boat down the Yang Tse to Nanking where we put in two delightful days as guests of Mrs. Thurston, an old friend of my wife's who is president of a Woman's College, already endowed but yet to be built.

I am astonished at the educational and hospital work being carried by the various missionary boards in the cities of China. There are seventeen separate establishments, churches, chapels, hospitals, and schools and a university under control of the American Episcopal board in the three cities Hankow, Han Yang and Wuchang grouped about the junction of the Han and Yang Tse rivers.

At Nanking around the old examination halls I took about a hundred Helices of three species, and later—on the way to the tomb of the first Ming Emperor I got two or three hundred

Planorbis, thanks to some helpers—men, women and children. When I gave them the enormous sum of twenty cents Mexican—about eight cents—they pretty nearly mobbed me. Mrs. T. said I should have given them four or five coppers and that for months to come every foreigner who went that way would have shells offered to him in the hope of finding another crazy man like me.

At Soochow I met Professor N. Gist Gee of Soochow University who took me out on the canals and lake for a beautiful afternoon's collecting. We saw the river life of the Chinese, the Sampans or house boats in which they are born, live and die; also we saw the fishing with trained cormorants, a queer sight of which I had read. More important we took somewhere from seven to ten species of shells which were everywhere plentiful: *Anodonta*, *Unio*, *Vivipara* (at least three species) a *Bythinia*, *Corbicula* and *Sphaerium*. It was most interesting and profitable day.

Very sincerely yours,

FRED BAKER.

ON THE RETENTION OF THE ORIGINAL COLOR ORNAMENTATION IN
FOSSIL BRACHIOPODS.

BY DARLING K. GREGER.

In 1908 the writer published what he believes to be the first recorded American occurrence of the preservation of the ornamental color design of a Palaeozoic brachiopod.* In this notice the species described, *Cranaena morsii* Greger, came from the Craghead Creek Shales (Middle Devonian) of central Missouri, and at the time, we had in mind the remarkable fact of the preservation of the original color design rather than a suggestion that the markings described were a remnant of the original pigmentation. Our observations, however, since the publication of the article, lead us to believe that in rare instances the original pigment is retained, in a more or less altered condition.

* 1908, Greger, D. K., American Journal of Sci., Vol. 25, pp. 313-314.